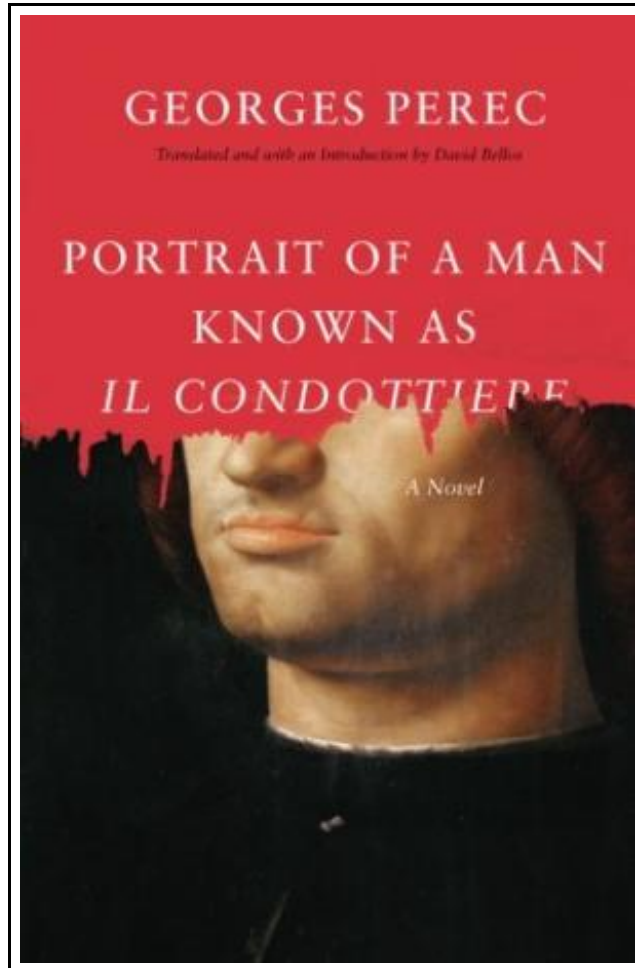


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University of Chicago Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 216 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Puckish and playful, Georges Perec infused avant-garde and experimental fiction with a wit and wonder that belied the serious concerns and concepts that underpinned it. A prominent member of the OuLiPo, and an abiding influence on fiction writers today, Perec used formal constraints to dazzling effect in such works as *A Void* a murder mystery that contains nary an e and *Life A User s Manual*, in which an apartment building, systematically canvassed, unfolds secrets and, ultimately offers a reflection on creation, destruction, and the devotion to art. Before embarking on these experiments, however, Perec tried his hand at a relatively straightforward novel, *Portrait of a Man*. His first book, it was rejected by publishers when he submitted it in 1960, after which he filed it away. Decades after Perec s death, David Bellos discovered the manuscript, and through his translation we have a chance to enjoy it in English for the first time. What fans will find here is a thriller that combines themes that would remain prominent in Perec s later work, such as art forgery, authenticity, and murder, as well as craftsman Gaspard Winckler, who whose namesakes play major roles in *Life A User s Manual* and *W or The Memory of Childhood*. Engaging and entertaining on its own merits, and gaining additional interest when set in the context of Perec s career, *Portrait of a Man* is sure to charm the many fans of this postmodern master.



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